

Habitat for Humanity of Merced County
Minutes February 12th, 2008 Meeting #169
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
2916 N. McKee Rd.
Merced, CA 95340

President: Michelle Paloutzian present
Secretary: Mary Ann Reynolds present
Finance Chair: Patti Houbein present
Public Information Chair: Bill Sanford present
Church Relations Chair: Vacant
Fund Raising Chair: Pat Shay present
Site Selection Chair: Jim Tolladay excused
Member-at-Large: Fernando Bravo absent

Vice President: George Gallaher present
Treasurer: Hilda Miranda absent
Administrative Chair: Donna Hall present
Volunteer Chair: Patti Houbein present
Family Selection/Partnership: Diane Bair present
Construction Chair: Lyle Allen present
Member-at-Large: Fred Pillsbury present
Member-at-Large: Genny Mesa present

Visitor: Cindy Garcia

Call to order: 7:05 pm

Devotion: Lyle read a brief biography of C.E. Andrews

Minutes of January 8th, 2008 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Patti gave the report in Hilda's absence. The balance at the end of December 31, 2007 was \$103,342.40. Patti and Hilda are working on dividing up the financial responsibilities.

Committees' Reports:

- A. Admin: Bill reported that the cost of renting a P.O. box has gone up to \$40. The permit rate for mailing at a reduced rate is now \$175. The newsletter has been printed and about 500 copies will be sent out at the end of this week. The carrier for Habitat insurance has been changed. A tithe of \$2313 will be sent to Managua, Nicaragua to go into an account for Somoto, Merced's Sister City. To build a Habitat house in Somoto would cost \$5,897. This is the second year our affiliate has tithed to Somoto.
- B. Fund Raising: Pat suggested that we look into a property at Castle for a Restore site. She will follow-up on it. We still need a business plan for the Restore. She also reported that a new stove has been donated to Habitat and the party will store it until we need it. Pat and Mary Ann have signed up for a Grant Writing Workshop at Merced College for February 28th and 29th. George reported that the United Way Fund grant application is due by March 3rd. He has asked for \$5,000 for the building of our next house. Presentations for the grants will be made in April. Michelle suggested that we look into the "Donate a Car to Habitat" scheme.
- C. Family Selection: Diane went over the credit report she had on the one family who turned in an application at our November Family Selection Orientation. Andy, assistant pastor at Gateway, has sent out a notice to churches that Habitat is

in the process of family selection for our next property. Diane received 4 requests for applications, sent them out, but she hasn't received any back yet. She reported that all Habitat families are doing ok with the exception of Mr. Rosas who has hurt his back and is unable to work. Mary Ann reported that she had been looking for a suitable venue for our next Family Selection Orientation on the south side Merced. She is having trouble finding a church in March which has a room available. She asked that we move the date up to April. It was decided that April 19th or 26th would be a suitable date. She will continue looking. There will be a planning meeting for the Family Selection Orientation at Mary Ann's house on Feb. 26th at 7:00pm.

- D. Site Selection: Lyle reported that we are still in escrow for the three lots. He will ask the City about taking down the house on the lot on T Street.
- E. Volunteers: Members of the family who run California Closets are wanting to volunteer.
- F. Nominating: No report

Old Business:

- A. Habitat Training on Feb. 9th in Sacramento: The four members of the Board who went, Donna, Bill, Genny and Michelle, gave reports on what they learned.
- B. Annual Retreat, January 26th in Mariposa: We quickly went over the "to do" list that was drawn up at the retreat. Patti is going to find out how much it would cost to have an audit done. George is going to look into what would go onto our restricted web-site. We will revisit the "to do" list at our next meeting.
- C. Patti and Mary Ann's meeting with the Executive Director of Stanislaus Habitat: Patti reported that Anita Hellam has been ED for 6 years. She generated funds through grants to pay her salary. She has transformed the Habitat operations in Stanislaus County. They get most of their operational money from grants. Mary Ann expressed her belief that Merced Habitat is on the cusp of expanding with the three lots it is about to acquire. She thinks it's time to get grants to hire an executive director, find a warehouse with an office and plan for starting a Restore.
- D. George's list:
 - a. Upson Internet's DSL has been installed.
 - b. The Board needs to resubmit its volunteer forms. George is going to take care of the process.
 - c. George was given permission to buy and be reimbursed for the mailing labels.

New Business:

- A. Reimbursement of Grant Writing Workshop. It was agreed that Pat and Mary Ann would be reimbursed for the cost of attending the Workshop.

Next meeting: March 11th, 2008

Adjourned at 9:00pm